

Freak Golfer Looms as Star Of First Rank

Young Australian Among Many Brilliant Foreign Players to Invade U. S.

By Ray McCarthy

PINEHURST, N. C., April 2.—Amer-

reports, coming in force, two little Japanese stars, the Akahoshi brothers, were bear watching, the Canadians are planning an attack and now appears a new invader from Australia in the person of Joseph H. Kirkwood.

take it from me he is no golf freak. This lad, whatever else may be said of him, is a star of the first degree, is a golfer who is shot maker and one who can play the shots when he is forced to it.

It might be well to describe briefly this fellow's appearance before proceeding with a description of his game.

He is a finely built young man of the ripe young age of twenty-four. This age he attained on the 24th day of last month. Incidentally, it might be of interest to note that Madame Melba, Australia's noted singer, celebrates her birthday on the same day.

Kirkwood stands about six feet. He weighs about 170 pounds and looks every inch the athlete he is. He has a round pleasant face, possesses a very ruddy complexion and has a thick crop of curly hair that makes him look younger than he actually is. He is a very modest, unassuming chap, who makes friends easily.

He has been playing golf since he was eleven years old. He took to the game like a duck to water. His break shots came to him gradually. That is he spent so much time on his home course that in the time he learned to do various tricks with a golf ball and to coddle it as an expert musician.

The fact is Kirkwood golfed much as a youngster that when he became of voting age he was by far the best player in Australia. He is still, by two or three strokes. He carries with him the combined title of Australian champion, meaning that he is the best of the golfers both

Accompanied by J. Victor East, also a professional golfer of Australia, Kirkwood set sail for America in March. As East explains, he is on his way to this country and to England to compete in the national golf

ments as Australia's representative and, incidentally, to take note as to how the game and its players in Australia compare with those of the United States and Great Britain.

On his return from the Continent made a tour of the States giving exhibitions of fancy shots. Several Australian amateurs have participated in the English tournaments, but Kirkwood is the first professional ever to go to John Bull's home isle in quest of the open prize.

Kirkwood is so proficient in the art of making fancy and trick shots that he can entertain a gallery for an hour and a half without repeating the same stunt. The remarkable part of his exhibition is not that he plays so many freak shots, but that he calls each and every one and that he makes good generally on each occasion. He will

Old, but good. He also drives a ball off the toe of a man's foot or from under it. East says that Kirkwood is also as good as William Tell ever was, in that he can swipe the pill from the top of a person's head and

Another shot this boyish looking phenom performs is to drive a ball from the tee while looking backward over the right shoulder.

And then he will go that one better by taking a right-handed club and making the same kind of drive or iron shot.

Another astounding feat he performs in playing a ball in a bad lie with a wooden club, and, of course, he generally makes good.

Still another that wins is to tee four balls, one on top of another. In this he uses a little sand between the balls. Then he drives each ball from the top.

The young fellow lines five balls in a row on the ground and proceeds to play one after the other in rapid succession, without lifting a club.

without lifting his head once and calling each shot in turn. Also he drives balls at various elevations from grass skimmers to sky scrapers, each shot assuming a slighter ascent than the last. He can drive 194 yards with a putter, and on his home course, at Riversdale in Australia, he played around in 72, using a putter for each

He also plays two balls so rapidly in succession that the second is in the air before the other has landed. Kirkwood's game, like Vardon's, is made up mostly of exceptionally accurate second shots. He will do better naturally on green greens than he can here.

only on grass greens than he can deal with this kind of game, and the chances are he will score well in the tournament at Columbia and in England. The Australian cannot drive as far as our American "pros."

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